

March 25, 1976

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. Speaker, I'm going to talk about 30 seconds on this. I think that every Senator on the floor of the Legislature knows that water, because of the fact that Lincoln is coming into Sarpy County to get water, and this is a legislation, this is the problems that we are going to face. When you talk about water in Nebraska you have only seen the very tip of the iceberg. All that is underneath you haven't seen yet. I will guarantee you that before the next five years go by, who drinks and who waters his land and who has water for the factories and whether we have water to wash the streets, we are going to decide it, and if we don't have the expertise in whatever department it is, we are going to be caught on the short end of the stick. The decision was made this year not to let the coal pipe slurry line go through our state, but you know we send it around our state and we still didn't stop the water from leaving and coming across our state. So, what we had better do, and I don't know where you are going to get your expertise, but we have got to come up with someone, somehow that is going to tell us whether we drink or not. It is just that simple.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stull.

SENATOR STULL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I would like to ask Senator Kremer a question please. Senator Kremer, I thought that we put some money in the Attorney General's office so that he could hire an attorney to start studying the water laws of the state, is that true?

SENATOR KREMER: I asked him that question and he said that he didn't get \$17,000, that is not much more than to give the deserved raise to those that are there and it will not bring in this person that we have got to have. I'll give you his name, I don't remember his first name, his Olchewan and he works for Dick Harmsberger and I suppose one of the best water lawyers, we are going to have people of that caliber. We can't get them with the present allotment that they have.

SENATOR STULL: Now what...

SENATOR KREMER: This is going to be worth more to Nebraska than the \$40,000. You people in the western ends are the ones that are really affected. This is going to affect tri-county and the five canals, especially Senator Nichol's county Scotts Bluff County. There is where we are going to lose the...let me tell you this Senator Stull. The present...we do not have a compact with Wyoming, we have a court decree, it says that we get 75% of the water that is in the North Platte river between Gernsey, Wyoming and the state line. Well, some of the things that are happening along to Laramie, that is above where the water comes into the North Platte, are going in....it is going to take 56,000 acre feet of water that will virtually dry up the North Platte River in the season of the year when Senator Nichol needs it out there. If this happens, it is going to affect the economy of all of our state. The Attorney General tells me that I do not have the money to hire the people that I am going to need. Especially if this goes, and even if it doesn't go, I still need it.

SENATOR STULL: Now how much money are you asking for?